

PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION

CASELOAD GOALS FOR PUBLIC DEFENDERS

In order to insure that attorneys within the Division of Public Defender Services are able to render quality representation to all clients and avoid unnecessary delay in the disposition of cases, the Public Defender Services Commission establishes caseload goals for individual attorneys as set forth below. It is the intention of the Commission that said goals be used for purposes of requesting and maintaining adequate resources for the Division through the budgeting process, for allocating resources equitably within the Division, and for assignment of cases in individual offices. Said goals reflect the Commission's view of what is desirable under current circumstances and shall not constitute a limit on the actual number of cases that may be assigned to an individual attorney.

For purposes of these goals, "caseload" shall be defined as the average number of new cases assigned per attorney per fiscal year per individual public defender office or unit. For combined JD/GA offices, an individual attorney shall be counted once for purposes of calculating the average JD and GA caseload per attorney for that office.

Caseload goals for the various types of representation provided shall be as follows:

1. *Judicial Districts.* Not to exceed 75 cases. For purposes of calculating the number of new cases assigned, murder cases and non-death penalty capital felony cases shall be counted as 2 cases, capital felony cases in which the State seeks the death penalty shall be counted as 10 cases, and minor felony, misdemeanor and motor vehicle cases accompanying major felony cases shall be excluded.
2. *Geographical Areas.* Not to exceed 450-500 cases, except for GA's 2, 6, & 14, where the goal shall be not to exceed 525-575 cases. For purposes of calculating the number of new cases assigned, cases that are nolle or dismissed on the date of appointment and bail only appointments shall be excluded.
3. *Juvenile Matters.* Not to exceed 300-400 cases. For purposes of calculating the number of new cases assigned, cases in which the Juvenile is charged with Violation of a Court Order in a pending case shall be excluded.
4. *Habeas Corpus.* Not to exceed 20-25 cases.

Adopted June 15, 1999

